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BRANCH

19 MAY 70 CITE SANTIAGO

INFO: DIRECTOR

19 MAY

BACKGROUNDER FOR WITH

1. "EL MERCURIO" UNDER SUSTAINED ATTACK BY TOMIC
CAMP WHICH HAS SERVED THINLY VEILED ULTIMATUM, TO
THROW SUPPORT BEHIND THEIR CANDIDATE OR FACE CON-
SEQUENCES.

2. TWO EDITORIALS IN SUCCESSION (18/19 MAY)
HAVE DRAWN TOMICISTA FIRE. FREI, AS IS HIS WONT,
MAKING CLUCKING SOUNDS, BUT ACTUALLY BELIEVED FULLY
ALIGNED WITH KRAUSS, PRADO, ORREGO ET AL WHO IN
VANGUARD OF DRIVE AGAINST "EL MERCURIO".

3.

FOLL PUTATIVE SCENARIO: ILLEGAL (CONTRACT
RUNS UNTIL DECEMBER) STRIKE CALLED. GOC OBLIGED TO
PROTECT OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF WORKERS (BOTH BLUE

Declassified and
Approved for Release
July 2000

19 May 70

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ND WHITE COLLAR) WHO PRO-MANAGEMENT. UNDER SOME
RETEXT GOC RENEGES. AT THIS POINT, CAMERA DE DIPU-
ADOS (WHICH NOW UNDER UNIDAD POPULAR CONTROL) PASSES
SPECIAL LEGISLATION CURTAILING MANAGEMENT'S POWERS.
HIS NOT AS FARFETCHED AS MAY APPEAR AT FIRST BLUSH
ND POST-TACNAZO EVENTS GAVE FORECAST OF LENGTHS
O WHICH EMBATTLED FREI REGIME PREPARED TO GO IN
CURTAILING PRESS FREEDOM.

4.

RIGHTLY

OR WRONGLY "EL MERCURIO" (INDEPENDENTLY OF ALESSANDRI)
VIEWS TOMIC AS PRINCIPAL THREAT TO CHILEAN DEMOCRACY,
MAY BE ON BASIS ITS READING OF RECENT POLLS WHICH
APPEAR TO ASSIGN ALLENDE "ALSO RAN" ROLE. ALL TOLD,
"EL MERCURIO," ESPECIALLY SINCE FALL 1969, HAS DONE
REMARKABLY EFFECTIVE JOB IN DEFENSE OF BASIC VALUES
IN WHICH DECENT CHILEANS AND AMERICANS SHARE. TO
BELABOR THE OBVIOUS, "EL MERCURIO" MERITS ALL SUPPORT

PAGE 3 SANTIAGO [REDACTED]

IT CAN MUSTER AND RECENT "LA-PRENSA" ARTICLE VERY HELPFUL THAT REGARD.

5. AMB KORRY BELIEVES FREI NOT GOING TO BE INVEIGLED AT THIS LATE HOUR INTO ANY DUBIOUS DOMESTIC MOVES LIABLE TO DIM HIS LUSTRE AND COMPROMISE HIS QUEST FOR U.N. SECY GENERALSHIP. TAMPERING WITH FREEDOM OF PRESS ACCOMPLISHING JUST THAT, ESP IF SIP SHOULD GET INVOLVED OR [REDACTED] TAKE NOTE.

6. RE GENERAL CHILEAN SITUATION, [REDACTED] MAY WISH TO COMMENT UPON:

A. PRESENT ELECTORAL LINEUP. HOW FAR BEHIND IS ALLENDE AND WHAT ARE RECUPERATIVE POWERS OF POLITICAL ELEMENTS BACKING HIM? HOW EFFECTIVE IS TOMIC'S "CAMPANA DEL OPTIMISMO" (E.E. ARTIFICIAL STIMULI OF PUBLIC OPINION THAT TOMIC TAILGATING ALESSANDRI)? WHAT HAS GONE AWRY WITH ALESSANDRI'S CAMPAIGN AND WHY IS HIS PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN SO INEPT? WHAT ARE POLITICAL COMPLEXITIES OF CONGRESSIONAL RUNOFF AND WHAT PARTIES WILL VOTE FOR WHOM?

B. WHERE DO MILITARY AND SPECIFICALLY GENL SCHNEIDER FIT IN?

[REDACTED]

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C. DOES [REDACTED] BELIEVE WIDESPREAD RUMOR THAT SOVIETS ARE PREPARED TO SETTLE FOR TOMIC AND WORD PASSED TO THAT EFFECT? (FYI: STA DISBELIEVES RUMOR).

D. WHAT IS SIGNIFICANCE OF DEAL BETWEEN TOMIC AND UNIDAD POPULAR WHICH LED TO ELECTION OF U.P. CONTROLLED MESA OF CAMERA DE DIPUTADOS? WHAT WAS U.P.'S QUID PRO QUO FOR THIS RESOUNDING VICTORY?

E. DOES FREI PURSUE DOUBLE-BARRELLED STRATEGY IN SENSE OF PROFESSING ANTI-TOMICISTA SENTIMENTS WHILE PROMPTING FROM WINGS? IS HE ENTIRELY TRUTHFUL IN DENYING PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF SCHNEIDER'S STATEMENT?

F. HOW DOES [REDACTED] EVALUATE THREAT OF VIOLENCE IN CAMPO? DOES PARTIDO NACIONAL DO ALL IN ITS POWER TO CURB BELLIGERENCE ITS FOLLOWING? DOES GOC DELIBERATELY STEP UP EXPROPRIATION TO TAR ALESSANDRI WITH BRUSH OF VIOLENCE?

7. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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DENIED IN TOTO